

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is provided to change the format of claims to conform to U.S. practice. The amendments made to the claims are not made for purposes relating to patentability, and are not made in response to prior art or any objections or rejections to the claims. Thus, the Applicant has not intended to narrow, nor has the Applicant narrowed, the scope of any of the claims associated with the international application by way of this preliminary amendment. New claims have also been added.

The Applicant respectfully requests that this preliminary amendment be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified national stage patent application.

If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of record at 651-686-6633 (ext. 110) to discuss any issues related to this case.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven R. Funk
Reg. No. 37,830

Date: October 19, 2004